

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A videophone station for conversation between a local person and a distant person via a telecommunication network having a means of oral telecommunication, the videophone station comprising:

a digital processing unit operative to receive at least one of a distant person image and data relative to said distant person;

a ~~generally vertical~~ first screen oriented on a substantially vertical first plane, the first screen being operative to display at least the distant person image received by the digital processing unit;

means of capturing an image of said local person, said means being arranged relative to the first screen to minimize a first angle between a picture taking axis of the means and a viewing axis of the first screen;

~~a second screen arranged at a foot of the first screen and oriented on an inclined plane, the second screen disposed between the first screen and said local person for displaying the data relative to said distant person; and~~

control means disposed between the second screen and said local person, and operative to drive the digital processing unit; and

a second screen arranged for displaying data received by the digital processing unit, the second screen disposed at a foot of the first screen, between the first screen and said control means, and oriented on a second plan that is distinct from the first plane and is inclined relative to the horizontal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and the second screens comprise flat screens.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image capture means comprises a camera having a unique network address, the camera operative to send video frames over the telecommunication network.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control means comprises at least one of a mouse and a joystick linked with the digital processing unit, the digital processing unit being operable to steer a camera proximate said distant person in response to commands received from at least one of the mouse and the joystick.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the digital processing unit is connected to a local area network including at least one other videophone station.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the digital processing unit is connected to a telephone link being at least one of a ADSL and ISDN type.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first screen is operative to also display information relating to an environment of said distant person.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control means comprises a keyboard and the digital processing unit being operable to record data entered by the local person via the keyboard.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a work table orients the first and second screens so that a first viewing axis for viewing the first screen makes an angle of approximately 30° with respect to a horizontal plane and the second screen is oriented at an angle of approximately 40° with the horizontal plane.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The videophone station as claimed in claim 3, wherein the camera is disposed proximate the first screen and at least one of immediately above and below the first screen.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for conversation between a local person and a distant person via a videophone station connected to a telecommunication network and including a camera ~~and first and second screens~~ a first screen oriented on a first plane substantially vertical and a second screen oriented on a second plane that is distinct from the first plane and is inclined relative to the horizontal, the method comprising the steps of:

- capturing an image of the local person with the camera;
- displaying telecommunication information on the first screen that is oriented to be facing said local person;
- establishing an audio link between the local person and the distant person relative to the displayed telecommunication information;
- displaying on a first screen data relative to the distant person received by a digital processing unit; and
- determining if video communication between the local person and the distant person should be initiated.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:
establishing a video communication link between the local person and the distant person;

- transferring the data relative to the distant person from the first screen to the second screen which is oriented between the first screen and the local person; and
- displaying an image on the first screen of the distant person that is captured by a distant camera that is proximate to and facing the distant person.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of displaying on at least one of the first and second screens an interface for driving the distant camera.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of displaying a telemetry template on at least one of the first and second screens for monitoring sensor data relative to the distant person.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of

interrogating a data server based on the telecommunication information to receive information relating to the distant person, the data server in communication with the videophone station.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A videophone system comprising:

a local area network including a gateway that attaches the local area network to a wide area network;

a videophone connected to the local area network and a telephone network, the videophone including a microcomputer, a first camera having a first network address, a ~~generally vertical~~ first screen oriented to a first plane substantially vertical linked to the first microcomputer, ~~an inclined~~ a second screen oriented on a second plane that is distinct from the first plane and is inclined relative to the horizontal, the second screen being linked to the first microcomputer and disposed at a foot of the first screen, and a control means linked with the first microcomputer; and

a remote station connected to at least one of the telephone network and the wide area network, the remote station including a screen for displaying an image captured by the first camera, and a second camera having a second network address and driveable by the control means.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The videophone system of claim 16 further comprising a database server connected to the local area network, the database server storing information relative to a user of the remote station for retrieval by the first microcomputer.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The videophone system of claim 16 wherein the control means comprises at least one of a keyboard, a joystick and a mouse.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The videophone system of claim 16 wherein the remote station further comprises a second control means for driving the first camera.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The videophone system of claim 16 wherein the wide area network comprises at least one of the Internet and the public switched telephone network.